

Gmail - July/August Newsletter



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July/August Newsletter

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U.S. LIAISON OFFICE NEWSLETTER

JULY / AUGUST 2010

KURDISH CULTURAL FESTIVAL

Strengthening the cultural relationships between Kurds and Americans, the KRG-U.S. liaison office hosted an energetic two-day festival in Washington, drawing friends from the U.S. administration, media, business community, non-governmental organizations and Kurdish, American and other foreign friends to plays and poems, films and food, and dance and discussions. Supported by Bedirxan Publishing House, "From Kurdistan to America: Establishing Cultural Bridges between the Kurds and the Americans" provided the KRG another opportunity to further introduce our wide cultural treasures to those in the U.S. capital—



"The political path is not the only path to make the Kurds and Kurdistan better known to the friends and supporters of the Kurdish people among the nations of the world," said Qubad Talabani, KRG Representative to the U.S. "The hosting of such cultural events is an impressive and important means to acquaint the world with the Kurds and Kurdistan." His remarks were underscored by Mr. Hameed Bedirxan of the Bedirxan Publishing House, which helped organize the festival and included it in a series of its cultural events around the world.

CLOSE UP

Dohuk is Kurdistan's gateway to adventure and the first stop for many is the city's famous Dreamland amusement park. Dreamland is a classic and vibrant amusement park with a Ferris wheel and other fun-filled rides. The view from atop the Ferris wheel is unforgettable!

INVESTMENT
CONFERENCE

The City of London welcomed Kurdistan in June as more than 500 delegates and potential investors attended the Kurdistan Region Trade and Investment Conference. Prime Minister Barham Salih, the keynote speaker, declared Kurdistan is ready and open for business and that those representing international businesses from 26 countries, and diplomats from 12 countries, should take advantage of how the Kurdistan Region's growth will outpace the rest of Iraq. To view videos from the conference, please go to <http://www.kurdistanconfere>

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NATIVE AMERICAN VISIT

The Kurdistan Regional Government's Representation in the United States held its first cultural exchange program with the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin. A delegation from the Menominee Nation traveled to Sulaimani from June 18th to the 22nd and was hosted by the First Lady of Iraq Hero Ibrahim Ahmed. The delegation was very impressed with the reconstruction progress in Sulaimani. While there, the delegation visited Halabja, the Red Security Prison—now a haunting Museum—and Hewa Hospital, and took part in the World Music Day celebration. Kurds responded warmly to the visit and the cultural and personal exchanges.

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*Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin*

PRIME MINISTER SALIH MEETS U.S. VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN IN BAGHDAD

Prime Minister Barham Salih met with U.S. Vice President Joseph Biden in Baghdad on July 4 to discuss the latest political developments in Iraq and ways to strengthen U.S.-Kurdistan Region relations. The meeting was attended by Christopher Hill, U.S. Ambassador to Iraq, Assistant U.S. Secretary of State Jeffrey Feltman, and Muhammad Ihsan, the Kurdistan Regional Government's Representative in Baghdad.

They discussed the formation of the new government and the recent Iraqi elections. It was stressed that all new political developments should take place in accordance with the Iraqi Constitution. They also discussed U.S.-Kurdistan Region relations within the context of the wider U.S.-Iraq strategic relationship. Prime Minister Salih said that the U.S. can play a big role in the reconstruction and development of the Kurdistan Region and Iraq.

CONGRESS

Two groups of congressmen recently visited the Kurdistan Region. The first delegation was led by Reps. Lincoln Davis of Tennessee and Brian Baird of Wisconsin. The second was led by Sen. James Inhofe of Oklahoma and included Sens. George Voinovich of Ohio and John Barrasso of Wyoming, and Reps. Jack Kingston of Georgia and Doug Lamborn of Colorado.

CATCHING UP

We welcome Aveen Karim to our office as our second summer intern. Aveen is from Silver Spring, Md., and will be a senior at Wake Forest University in North Carolina this fall. She plans to graduate with a B.A. in History and a minor in Middle East and South Asian Studies. Aveen joins Glen Ramson, from Frederick, Md., in the annual summer intern program.

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